



Small Projects Day – April 7, 2020, Section 2: Resource Specialist Review

Project Name: West Hill Bridge Replacement

A proposed action may be categorically excluded from analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS only if there are no extraordinary circumstances related to that proposed action. Potential presence of extraordinary circumstances must be addressed by the appropriate resource specialists.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE	
	YES	NO	YES	NO			
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (ANIMALS)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/31/2020	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale:							
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Animals)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/31/2020	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale:							
Describe Mitigations required: If tree removal (greater than 4") is required on FS lands, check with district biological staff regarding bat surveys. This is for both T&E as well as RFSS myotis species.							
BE Complete-This document serves as the BE. Date Completed: 3/31/2020	Y	N	USFWS Consultation Complete?		Y	N	N/A
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date Completed: The town will complete this per sect.1.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat (PLANTS)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Forest Service sensitive Species (RFSS-Plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller/ Botanist	March 27, 2020	
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect							
Rationale: None known to occur there, potential habitat no likely							
Describe Mitigations required: None							
BE Complete? Date Completed: March 27, 2020	Y	N					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

¹ FSH 1909.15 Section 30

² The mere presence of one or more of these resource conditions does not preclude use of a categorical exclusion. It is the degree of the potential effect of a proposed action on these resource conditions that determines whether extraordinary circumstance exist.





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Flood plains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/31/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Not present						
Describe Mitigations required: None						
Army Corps of Engineer permit needed?	Y	N	Not for wetlands. (Stream: GP 8, SV eligible)			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Municipal watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/31/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated Wilderness Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/17/2020
Wilderness Name: Joseph Battell						
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Project area located over 1.2 miles from the nearest Wilderness: Joseph Battell						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Designated National Recreation Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/17/2020
NRA Name: Moosalamoo						
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Project area located over 4.5 miles from nearest National Recreation Area: Moosalamoo						
Describe Mitigations required:						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
National Scenic Trails Trail Name: Appalachian	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/17/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project area is located over 12 miles from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Describe Mitigations required:						
Eligible Wild, Scenic, Recreational Rivers Type (s) Recreational River Name(s): White River	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/17/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Project area is located over 4 miles from the nearest eligible Wild, Scenic and Recreational River (eWSR): the White River eWSR. The activity is located outside of the river corridor; as a result, the effects from the project associated with the outstandingly remarkable values identified for this river are not expected to be adverse, and thus will not preclude it from future consideration for addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System. Describe Mitigations required:						
Roadless Area Conservation Rule Areas (RACR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shawn Langston, NEPA Planner	3/16/2020
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: The project area is not located within a RACR area. Describe Mitigations required:						
Research Natural Areas (RNAs) RNA Name(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Not present. Describe Mitigations required: None.						





EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES RESOURCE CONDITIONS ¹	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT ²		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Andrew Triplett/ Tribal Liaison</i>	<i>March 31, 2020</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale:						
Describe Mitigations required:						
Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Andrew Triplett/ Forest Archeologist</i>	<i>March 31, 2020</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect <input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: If historic properties are found within the project area then project will need to be modified to either protect the resource or mitigate it.						
Describe Mitigations required: The Town will need to contract an archaeology survey for this project.						

OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>A. Quintana, Soil Scientist</i>	<i>3/29/20</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect Rationale: Although soil productivity will be permanently reduced in areas included in the road prism, those areas are not considered part of the permanent land base for soil productivity. Forest plan standards and guidelines and mitigations will minimize negative effects to soil resources outside of the road prism.						
Describe Mitigations required: Sites for servicing and refueling construction equipment must be located at least 50 feet away from the top of the stream bank and approved by a Forest Officer. Fuel leaks from such equipment shall be repaired immediately. A supply of acceptable absorbent materials shall be kept on the job site (where such equipment is used) for use in the event of a hazardous fluid spill. Acceptable absorbent materials are those that are manufactured specifically for the containment and clean up of hazardous materials.						
Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist</i>	<i>3/31/2020</i>
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE		
	YES	NO	YES	NO				
Rationale:								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Visuals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emily Lauderdale, Landscape Architect	3/25/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: proposed activities will not have lasting effects on visual quality objectives. Visual effects due to material stock piling and construction will be short term and limited to a small area.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Holly Knox, Recreation Program Manager	3/17/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: Access to trail and National Forest dispersed recreation opportunities will be limited for a short duration of time within the localized project area. Similar recreation opportunities are available in close proximity to the project area.								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Fisheries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeremy Mears, Fish Biologist	3/31/2020		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale:								
Describe Mitigations required:								
Wildlife	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20		
Level of anticipated effect - Check one <input type="checkbox"/> no effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse <input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect								
Rationale: This area identified as a High Priority crossing in Vermont Critical Pathways project report (Leoniak et al 2009)								





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/ TITLE	DATE			
	YES	NO	YES	NO					
Describe Mitigations required: Explore the opportunity to use a wildlife-passage friendly design at this high priority crossing area Update: After a site visit on 4/10/20 and desktop review by VFWD, the site does not hold great potential to improve wildlife crossing since it is off of Rt73 and not on the part of the hill where moose crossings have been observed. No mitigation needed. SJG 5/20/2020									
Ecological (Special Areas; Significant Ecological Features; Ecosystem Composition, Structure & Function)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gifford, Ecologist and Wildlife Biologist	3/30/20			
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:									
Describe Mitigations required: None.									
Non-native Invasive Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MB Deller	March 27, 2020			
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale: Mitigations expected to work									
Describe Mitigations required: All equipment brought in to implement the project must be clean prior to accessing the site. To prevent spreading wild chervil in the project area, wild chervil must be prevented from flowering and going to seed. Implementers, or town staff, may choose one of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Hand pull wild chervil plants prior to implementation, and again as needed, throughout implementation. The extent of the area to be pulled would be the extent of the area where equipment and materials are staged, plus the extent of the area where implementers are working. Pile pulled plants on site, away from the stream or any vehicle or foot traffic, cover with weed fabric weighted by branches or logs, and monitor for escaped plants. Mow or weed-whack the affected area as described above every 10 days or as needed so that wild chervil never has the chance to flower. Regardless of choice of method of control, consult with botany staff regarding safety measures for handling wild chervil prior to start of control work.									
Range (FLNF)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Matt Lark, Natural Resource Specialist	04/07/20			
Level of anticipated effect - Check one	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no effect	<input type="checkbox"/> effect – not adverse	<input type="checkbox"/> adverse effect						
Rationale:									





OTHER RESOURCE CONDITIONS (as applicable)	RESOURCE CONDITIONS PRESENT		MITIGATIONS REQUIRED		NAME/TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO	YES	NO		
Describe Mitigations required:						

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (as applicable)	INVOLVEMENT REQUIRED		NAME/TITLE	DATE
	YES	NO		
Timber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	David Haberl/ Pre-Sale Forester	3/27/2020
Remarks: Assist, as needed, for designating trees for removal through firewood permit or small sale.				
Fire/Fuels	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LR Silvia, Fuels Specialist	04/07/20
Remarks:				
Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/FE	3/29/2020
Remarks: GMFL Engineering is involved as the project steward for FHWA.				
Accessibility/Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Donna Marks Safety&OccupHealth	3/31/2020
Remarks:				
Survey/Landline	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Austin/Staff Officer	3/29/2020
Remarks: Survey any boundaries or rights-of-way.				

QUESTIONS FOR PROPONENT:**NOTES:**

- This project needs to happen to be able to accommodate Robinson IRP timber sales.
- FS volunteered to do NEPA for the Town.
- Angie Quintana wants to review the project once it's completely fleshed out





- Suzanne Gifford asked if wildlife could have input on the design?
 - It's the towns project, we don't have rights or standing to comment on design
- This is John Sinclair's decision
- Suzanne wants field visit
- Jay Strand noted we should make this an adaptive decision
- Chris Mattrick stated he would like to see both projects written into the proposal and record the actual project once finished.

Responsible Official: John Sinclair

Documentation Level and CE Category (DM, LTF): DM, E3, D4

Who to include for scoping: Residents of West Road, Town of Rochester, VTrans, White River Partnership

Forest Plan consistency: Yes

Field visit (who & when): Eco

Desired decision date: September 2020

Desired implementation date: July 2021

